

SENATE—Thursday, October 14, 1999

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's prayer will be offered by Father Chad Hatfield, All Saints Orthodox Church, Salina, KS.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, Father Chad Hatfield, offered the following prayer: Let us pray to the Lord.

O Lord, grant to the Members of this Senate peace in the coming day, helping them do all things in accordance with Your holy will. In every hour of this day, reveal Your will to them. Bless their dealings with one another. Teach them to treat all that comes to them throughout the day with peace of soul and the firm conviction that Your will governs all. In all their deeds and words, guide their thoughts and their feelings. In unforeseen events, let them not forget that all are sent by You. Teach every Member of this solemn assembly to act firmly and wisely without embittering and embarrassing others. Give them strength to bear the fatigue of the coming day with all that it shall bring. Direct them, teaching them to pray. And, Yourself, pray in all of us. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable SAM BROWNBAC, a Senator from the State of Kansas, led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRAPO). The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. STEVENS. I thank the Chair.

Before making opening remarks, I yield to Senator BROWNBAC for such remarks he wishes to make.

Mr. BROWNBAC. I thank the Senator.

FATHER CHAD HATFIELD

Mr. BROWNBAC. I rise to thank Father Chad Hatfield of the All Saints Orthodox Church, Salina, KS, for his encouraging words. Today, it is appropriate to honor this man of God by describing his service to the people of Kansas.

Father Hatfield has served faithfully in the ministry for over 20 years and is presently the senior pastor of an East-

ern Orthodox congregation. Before settling in Kansas, he lived in several places including South Africa during far more difficult days. His duties included ministering as well as editing a South African theological journal. He became an ordained Orthodox priest in January 1994, after several years in the Episcopal Church.

He is a respected theologian, as well as a man of deep faith whose talent lies in pointing people to a relationship with God. He is known for his special events for those exploring Christian Orthodoxy, and many in his congregation are new converts because of his witness.

I hope my words capture his strength and wisdom. This is a man who has dedicated himself to the people of his parish, not because it was his job but because they are his flock. His is the work of opening Godly mysteries, while serving the needs of those in his community. He is a servant to those in trouble involving the persecuted church overseas, youth violence at home, reducing teen pregnancy, preserving marriages, and helping promote such projects as Faith Works of Kansas which links needy families with churches to help people get back on their feet. His is the work of a true shepherd, and it is work which surely will remain.

The Bible says in Psalm 119:105, "Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." Mr. President, I hope you join me in thanking Father Hatfield for his prayer and lighting our path for this day.

I thank the Chair and I yield the floor.

SCHEDULE

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, on behalf of the majority leader, I wish to announce that today the Senate will debate the Defense appropriations conference report for 1 hour. By previous consent, that vote will be postponed to occur at 4 p.m. this afternoon. For the remainder of the day, the Senate will debate the campaign finance reform bill with amendments expected to be offered. Senators who intend to offer amendments are encouraged to work with the bill managers to schedule a time for debate on their amendments. Further, Senators can expect votes throughout the day. The Senate may also consider any other conference reports available for action.

The distinguished majority leader thanks all Senators for their cooperation on this day. It will be a difficult day.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000—CONFERENCE REPORT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now proceed to the consideration of the conference report accompanying H.R. 2561, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill, H.R. 2561, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses this report, signed by a majority of the conferees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of the conference report.

(The conference report is printed in the House proceedings of the RECORD of October 8, 1999.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be 50 minutes of debate equally divided, with an additional 10 minutes under the control of the Senator from Arizona, Mr. MCCAIN.

The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, yesterday the House passed the conference report which is before the Senate which accompanies H.R. 2561, which is the fiscal year 2000 Department of Defense Appropriations Act. It passed by a vote of 372-55. All 17 Senate conferees signed this conference report which Senator INOUE and I present to the Senate today.

This conference report reflects nearly 4 weeks of discussions and negotiations with the House committee. The conference report before the Senate is consistent with the bill passed by the Senate in June and the armed services conference report passed recently and signed by the President.

In most areas, we established a compromise figure between the House and Senate levels.

The excellent work undertaken by the Armed Services Committee provided an essential roadmap and guide for the work of our conference on most major programs.

The first priority of our conference was to ensure adequate funding for military personnel, including the 4.8-percent pay raise for the fiscal year 2000. Funding was also provided to implement the restoration of full retirement benefits for military personnel